

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listing of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1-5. (Canceled)

6. (currently amended) A method for eliciting nitrogen absorption and protein synthesis in plants, comprising:

administering, to said plants or soils in which said plants are located, an effective amount of (1) ulvans, or (2) a reaction product obtained from the treatment of said ulvans of (1) by chemical hydrolysis or enzymatic hydrolysis, for eliciting nitrogen absorption and protein synthesis in the plants or soils in which the plants are located,

wherein said ulvans of (1) and said reaction product of (2) comprise iduronic acid.

7. (previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 6, wherein the administering is carried out to the plants via the leaves or via the roots.

8. (previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 6, wherein the effective amount administered to the plants is from 0.1 g to 100g per liter when applied in liquid form via the leaves or in nutritive solution for the roots.

9. (currently amended) A fertilizing product for eliciting nitrogen absorption and protein synthesis in plants, comprising:

an effective amount of at least one of (1) ulvans and (2) a reaction product obtained from the treatment of said ulvan of (1) by chemical hydrolysis or enzymatic hydrolysis, for eliciting nitrogen absorption and protein synthesis in the plants or soils in which the plants are located, in combination with one or more fertilizing substances,

wherein said ulvans of (1) and said reaction product of (2) comprise iduronic acid.

10. (Previously presented) The fertilizing product as claimed in claim 9, wherein the fertilizer product is in the form of a liquid and the effective amount is between 0.1g and 100g per liter.

11. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 6, wherein the effective amount given to the plants or soils is from 10 to 1000 g per hectare when applied in solid form, the solid form being pulverulent or granulated fertilizers.

12. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 11, wherein the effective amount given to the plants or soils is about 200 g per hectare.

13. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 6, wherein the ulvans are extracted from green algae of the genus *Ulva* or *Enteromorpha*.

14. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 6, wherein the ulvans are extracted from at least one selected from the group consisting of the following species of *Ulva* or *Enteromorpha*: *Ulva armoricana*, *Ulva rigida*, *Ulva rotundata*, *Ulva lactuca*, *Enteromorpha intestinalis* and *Enteromorpha compressa*.

15. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 6, wherein the ulvans extracted from algae are obtained by a method including the steps of washing, milling and extracting, wherein extracting involves a solid-liquid separation.

16. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 15, wherein the method of obtaining the ulvans extracted from algae further comprises the steps of fractioning, concentrating and dehydrating.

17. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 8, wherein the effective amount given to the plants or soils is 1 g per liter.

18. (Previously presented) The fertilizing product as claimed in claim 9, wherein the fertilizer product is in the form of a solid, and the effective amount of the at least one of ulvans and a reaction product obtained from the treatment of the ulvans by hydrolysis or enzymatic hydrolysis is between 10 and 1000 g per hectare of treated soil.

19. (Previously presented) The fertilizing product as claimed in claim 18, wherein the effective amount given to the plants or soils is 200 g per hectare.

20. (Previously presented) The fertilizing product as claimed in claim 18, wherein the solid is powder or granules.

21. (Previously presented) The fertilizing product as claimed in claim 9, wherein the ulvans are extracted from green algae of the genus *Ulva* or *Enteromorpha*.

22. (Previously presented) The fertilizing product as claimed in claim 9, wherein the ulvans are extracted from at least one selected from the group consisting of the following species of *Ulva* or *Enteromorpha*: *Ulva armoricana*, *Ulva rigida*, *Ulva rotundata*, *Ulva lactuca*, *Enteromorpha intestinalis* and *Enteromorpha compressa*.

23. (New) The method of claim 6, wherein said ulvans of (1) and said reaction product of (2) comprise a saccharide unit that is derived from iduronic acid.

24. (New) The method of claim 23, wherein the saccharide unit that is derived from iduronic acid is ulvanobiuronic acid 3-sulfate type B, and wherein said ulvans of (1) and said reaction product of (2) further comprise at least one of ulvanobiouronic acid 3-sulfate type A, ulvanobiose acid 3-sulfate and ulvanobiose acid 2',3-disulfate.

25. (New) The fertilizing product as claimed in claim 9, wherein said ulvans of (1) and said reaction product of (2) comprise a saccharide unit that is derived from iduronic acid.

26. (New) The fertilizing product as claimed in claim 25, wherein the saccharide unit that is derived from iduronic acid is ulvanobiuronic acid 3-sulfate type B, and wherein said ulvans of (1) and said reaction product of (2) further comprise at least one of ulvanobiouronic acid 3-sulfate type A, ulvanobiose acid 3-sulfate and ulvanobiose acid 2',3-disulfate.